

## SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF H.R. 426

### THE REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS ACT

#### OFFERED BY CONGRESSMAN UDALL

##### *Section 1. Short title*

`Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2005.'

##### *Section 2. Findings*

Specifies several findings of the Congress regarding remote sensing applications, including the following: the full range of applications of remote sensing and other forms of geospatial information to meet public sector requirements have not been adequately explored or exploited; such information can be particularly useful to State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in the area of urban planning, especially in their efforts to plan for and manage the impacts of growth, development, and sprawl, as well as in environmental impact and disaster relief planning and management; and NASA, in conjunction with other agencies, can play a unique role in stimulating the development of the remote sensing and other geospatial information sectors through pilot projects to demonstrate the value of integrating government and commercial remote sensing data with geographic information systems and satellite-based positioning data to provide useful applications products.

##### *Section 3. Definitions*

Defines several terms used throughout the bill. Defines the term `geospatial information' to mean knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical and cultural features on the landscape based on analysis of data from airborne or spaceborne platforms or other types and sources of data.

##### *Section 4. Pilot projects to encourage public sector applications*

Directs the NASA Administrator to establish a program of competitively awarded grants for pilot projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and tribal agency needs. Specifies certain preferences in awarding such grants. Directs NASA to seek opportunities to assist in the development of commercial applications and to assist State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in applying these technologies for growth management and wildland fire observation. Restricts assistance for such pilot projects to no more than 3 years. Requires each recipient of such a grant to report to NASA on the results of the pilot project and conduct a workshop for potential users to disseminate lessons learned from the project. Authorizes the Administrator to issue regulations for the conduct of the pilot projects.

#### *Section 5. Program evaluation*

Directs the NASA Administrator to establish an advisory committee to monitor the program established under section 4. Directs the Administrator to transmit to the Congress an evaluation of the program established under section 4 by an independent entity no later than December 31, 2009.

#### *Section 6. Data availability*

Directs the NASA Administrator to ensure that the results of each of the pilot projects completed under section 4 are retrievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible database.

#### *Section 7. Education*

Directs the Administrator to establish an educational outreach program to increase awareness at institutions of higher education and State, local, regional, and tribal agencies of the potential applications of remote sensing and other geospatial information.

#### *Section 8. Cost sensitivity study*

Directs the NASA Administrator to conduct a study of the effect of remote sensing imagery costs on potential State, local, regional, and tribal agency applications and to transmit the study to Congress not later than 2 years after the date of enactment.

#### *Section 9. Report*

Directs NASA to report to Congress not later than 6 months after enactment on how agencies are implementing the recommendations in a September, 2003 General Accounting Office report on the use of geospatial information in wildland fire management.

#### *Section 10. Authorization of appropriations*

Authorizes \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.